



01-22-03

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CONTROL# 09/803067 (AMENDED)

SPECIFICATION

TITLE: PROCESS FOR TREATING JUICES WITH ULTRAVIOLET ACTIVATED OXYGEN

CROSS REFERENCE: NO RELATED APPLICATIONS USING ULTRAVIOLET ACTIVATED OXYGEN BUBBLED THROUGH JUICES.

FEDERAL SPONSOR, ETC. NOT APPLICABLE

MICROFICHE: NOT APPLICABLE

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

TECHNICAL FIELD:

THIS INVENTION RELATES TO A METHOD OF PATHOGEN DESTRUCTION IN A LIQUID SUBSTANCE WITHOUT THE USE OF A PASTEURIZATION PROCESS.

IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE USE OF ULTRAVIOLET ACTIVATED OXYGEN DESTROYS PATHOGENS ON CONTACT, AND DOES NOT AFFECT THE ENZYMES

TABLE 1 IS A LIST OF COMPONENTS IN ACTIVATED OXYGEN. ASSUMING AMBIENT AIR HAS 21% OXYGEN CONTENT, FOLLOWING ARE THE TYPES OF GASSES FORMED BY THE ULTRAVIOLET LAMP (185 NANOMETER-254 NANOMETER) FROM THE 21% OXYGEN IN THE AIR.

TABLE 1

HYDROXY RADICAL	2%
ATOMIC OXYGEN	0.5%
HYDROGEN PEROXIDE	6%
HYDROPEROXY RADICAL	2%
HIGHER PEROXIDES	7%
OZONE	2%
UNKNOWN	1.5%

THESE ARE ALL EXCELLENT OXIDIZERS, AND AS A GROUP THEY TEST 10% TO 20% MORE ACTIVE THAN THE EPA TEST FOR STANDARD OZONE:

BACKGROUND ART:

IN U.S. 21CFR Ch. 1 (4-1-98) 184.1563 OZONE IS FDA APPROVED TO STERILIZE BOTTLED WATER.

ALL OTHER RELATED ART FOUND RELATES TO WATER PURIFICATION WITH CORONA DISCHARGE PRODUCED OZONE OR THE USE OF AN ULTRAVIOLET BIOCIDAL LAMP (254 NANOMETER) WHERE THE LIQUID IS EXPOSED TO THE 254 NANOMETER FREQUENCY. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THIS HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE FDA FOR USE IN FOOD.

ON JUNE 26, 2001 THE FDA APPROVED THE USE OF OZONE IN GASEOUS AND AQUEOUS PHASES AS AN ANTIMICROBIAL AGENT IN FOOD. (FEDERAL REGISTER VOL. 66 NO 123 PAGE 33829).

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BRIEF SUMMARY OF INVENTION

THE PRESENT INVENTION PROVIDES A SPECIFIC METHOD TO DESTROY PATHOGENS IN A LIQUID AT AMBIENT TEMPERATURE AND VARYING TURBIDITY (AN EXAMPLE IS APPLE CIDER AND PULPY ORANGE JUICE).

THE ACTIVATED OXYGEN COMPONENTS (TABLE 1) BEING DISPENSED AND MIXED THROUGH THE LIQUID CONTACTS AND DESTROYS THE PATHOGENS.

THE METHOD OF DESTRUCTION IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. OXYGEN ATOMS IN PRESENCE COMBINE TO FORM OZONE (O₃) WHICH HAS A HALF LIFE OF 30 MINUTES.
2. WHEN OZONE CONTACTS A PATHOGEN, THE THIRD OXYGEN MOLECULE ATOM DETACHES ITSELF FROM THE OZONE MOLECULE AND ATTACHES TO THE PATHOGEN TO OXIDIZE IT.
3. IN THE PATHOGEN THIS OXIDATION RESULTS IN A CHANGE IN THE CELL PERMEABILITY.
4. IN SIMPLE TERMS, THE UNSTABLE ELECTRONS OF OZONE OXIDIZES, CREATING HOLES THROUGH THE PATHOGEN MEMBRANE.

NOTE: THE ACTIVATED OXYGEN DOES NOT AFFECT THE ENZYMES

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF VIEWS OF DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1: OVERVIEW OF ACTIVATED OXYGEN EQUIPMENT, PAGE 7

STATEMENT FOR FIGURE 1: PAGES 4,5,6

FIGURE 2: INTERNAL VIEW OF ACTIVATED OXYGEN REACTOR

WITH STATEMENT PAGE 8

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The purpose of the invention is to introduce a method for achieving a 5-log reduction of the pathogens in juices, with out causing any damage to the enzymes.

The invention (see illustration #1) consist of a oil less compressors (A) with a 1-3 micron filter (A-1) to supply air for the inventions. The air is pumped down a conduit of CPVC or stainless steel to a regulator assembly (B) to regulate a constant pressure within the invention.

The Regulator consists of an oil filter (B-1) and a water filter (B-2). These filters are used to remove any tramp oil or water that would be picked up by the ambient air. Thereby keeping the air clean.

The clean air then passes onto a safety pressure relief valve (C). The purpose of the pressure relief valve is to prevent any damage to the system should the regulator fail. The pressure relief valve is of the kind that can be adjusted (5 to 75 pounds) depending upon the size of the system and the required amount of air.

The air is exposed to a visual gauge with a protector (D) for the purpose of a visual check of the air pressure within the system. The air now passes through a pressure flow sensor (E). The sensor sends a 4 and 20 signal to the controller in the control panel to regulate the power to the system and to activate the timer and strip chart. If the controller does not receive a signal for 1 minute, the controller will shut down the system.

The air is now forced through a Mazzei injector (F) where high humid air is inducted into the air stream before entering into the generator (h1-H10) in cabinet (H).

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The air being pumped into the generators (h1-H10) passes through in a serpentine manner as to expose the air and humidity for the longest time possible, exposing the highly humid air to the U.V. light and catalysis. By having the air follow a serpentine path with in the generators (see illustration #2) Baffles placed at 9 inches intervals on ½" 316 Stainless steel all thread rods with U.V. lights (1-6 each of H), placed with in the generator held in place by compression seal fittings (G). The humid air is exposed to the lights and to the catalysis impregnated in the liner of the generators (I-Trade secret).

The U.V. light (H) being exposed to the air and humidity start to convert the air and humidity in to other species, such as ozone, hydroxyls, peroxides, hyper-proxy's and atomic oxygen. The species are then pumped to a sparging system (K) (see: illustration #3).

The sparging system is so constructed as to allow the gaseous species to be injected into the juice in a manner that maximum contact between the gaseous species and the juice maybe kept from the time the juice enters the serpentine tank (I) till it is removed. This contact time between the gaseous species and juice will achieve a five-log reduction in the pathogens, leaving the enzymes in tact.

All of the equipment use in the system of invention maybe purchase through Grainger, McMaster-Carr, Atlantic Ultra Violet, American Ultra Violet, Ryan Herco or Porex, with the exception of the generators and catalytic liner.

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OVERVIEW OF THE A.O. EQUIPMENT

The system consists of the following equipment.

A Being a compressor for the purposes of introducing the ambient air into the system. A-1, being a hepa filter used to filter the air entering the system and protects the internal components.

B Being a combination regulator oil separator and water coalescer designed to remove any water, oil and regulates the air at 10 pound to 42 pound entering the A.O. system. B-1, being a coalescent oil filter to remove any tramp oil. B-2, being a filter designed to remove particulates water from the air stream. B-3 being a pressure regulator designed to hold the air stream at a consistent preset pressure from 5 pound to 150 pound. This component is a very important part of the system.

C Being a safety relief valve. This valve is preset for each system to relieve the pressure if it exceeds the system pressure allowance.

D Being a system pressure gauge for visual recognition of the pressure in the system.

E Being an electronic flow meter that relays a 4 and 20 signal to start a strip chart and hour meter in the control panel.

F Being a Mazzei injector type injector for the induction of a controlled amount of 100 percent humid air. The air being taking from the exhaust filter, J-1 off the J-2 coalesce side of the filter through hose f-1 through flow control valve G to the Mazzei injector valve, which feeds the air through the generators in unit H. To create the activated oxygen and other species of oxidants.

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G Being a flow control valve to regulate the injection of humidity into the Mazzei injectors.

H Being a Polypro cabinet housing the A.O. generators. H-1 through H-4. The cabinet is constructed of ½ inch polypro with unistrut braces, which also are the mounting brackets for the generators and ballast.

H1 - H4 H-1 through H-4, Being A.O. generators constructed of tubing of stainless steel with liners, baffles and ultra violent lights or of plastic tubing with liners, baffles and ultra violent lights. The liners and baffles being coated or impeded with catalysts that we hold as trade secret. The air being pressurized through the generator where the air and humidity are exposed to the ultra violent lights and catalyst to create O_3 , hyper peroxides and hydroxyls which are then pressured through the pipes to the serpentine tank (I) where the gas is injected into the fluid through sparging tubes installed in each clarifier.

I Being a tank divided into chambers so designed as to cause the fluid to pass through in a serpentine manner. The amount of chambers and size of the tank are determined by the g.p.m. and the time needed for a 5 log kill of the pathogens. The fluid would enter at one end and pass through each chamber in a serpentine manner at the same time A.O. would be injected through sparging tubes at the bottom of each chamber saturating the fluid with A.O. for given time to expose the fluid long enough for the pathogens to be destroyed.

J Being an exhaust filter for the systems consisting of a polypro cabinet with chambers for coalescing out particulate water and carbon to contain any odors or trapped gases. Allowing a percentage of the exhaust to be recycled back into the system as the introduction of humidity.

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K Being a sparging system consisting of piping and flow control valves for each sparger in each chamber, to regulate the flow of A.O. The sparging system is so constructed as to allow each sparger to be regulated and the C.F.M. to be controlled and monitor keeping the sparger exhausting into the fluid at 5 micron to 30 micron bubbles, The size of the bubbles is controlled by the p.s.i. of the flow of A.O.

L Control panel being constructed of polypro to house the strip chart and hour meter, fuses, and power switches.

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